

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application and claims 1-9 and 14-18 stand rejected as anticipated by, or obvious in view of, the art on record. The Examiner further indicates that claims 10-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, which indication Applicants acknowledge with gratitude. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner regarding the novelty and obviousness of claims 1-9 and 14-18 but, solely in the interest of passing this case to issue, have hereby amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 10 and intervening claim 8. Claims 8, 10 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice and Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit any of the claims originally presented in this application in further related applications. The dependencies of the remaining claims have been amended as necessary to account for the cancellation of claims 8 and 10.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

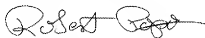
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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the
Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filing.

January 30, 2008
(Date of Transmission)

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Popa
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,010
(323) 934-2300 voice
(323) 934-0202 facsimile
rpopa@la.ladas.com